(c) The purchase of various equipment is a regular business requirement as replacement of wornout and obsolete ones.

(d) No unnecessary purchase has been made.

Impact of open Sky Policy on IA

1230. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) wether it is a fact that the new Open Sky Policy will throw the Indian Airlines again in disarray as the Indian Airlines is almost limping back to earn a small profit this year;

(b) the average age of the aircrafts specially those plying to the North-Eastern sector;

(c) whether Government have any plan to phase-out the aged and almost vintage aircrafts; and

(d) if so, whether Government have plans to replace the existing fleet with the new aircraft?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) There is no change in the domestic air transport policy. Indian Airlines continues to be the market leader.

(b) No specific aircraft as such are dedicated to operate in the North Eastern sector. The average age of aircraft of the domestic airlines are as follows:—

Indian Airlines:	12.8 years
Jet Airways:	3.8 years
Sahara Airlines:	11.8 years

(c) and (d) Indian Airlines has plans to phase out/replace the aged aircraft in its fleet.

Labour Relations Committee in Air India

1231. SHRI C. O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Labour Relations Committee in Air India Ltd., is functioning as per the provision in the Air Corporation Repeal Act under Section 8(5);

(b) whether it is a fact that after Repeal of Corporation Act 1953,